

LEA Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services

LEA Name: Livingston Public Schools

Date (mm/dd/yyyy): 06/21/2021

Date Revised (mm/dd/yyyy): 01/24/2022

1. Maintaining Health and Safety

For each mitigation strategy listed below (A–H), please describe how the LEA will maintain the health and safety of students, educators, and other staff and the extent to which it has adopted policies, and a description of any such policies, on each of the following safety recommendations established by the CDC.

A. Universal and correct wearing of masks:

The Livingston Public Schools (LPS) will comply with NJDOH Guidelines and make adjustments to plans on an ongoing basis. As long as mask wearing mandates remain in place from the New Jersey Department of Health, all students and staff will be required to wear masks as per the guidelines. It is expected that parents will provide masks for their children. If a child arrives at school and does not have a mask, the school will provide a mask for the child to wear throughout the day. Students will be instructed in the proper way to wear a mask, and will be periodically reminded about mask wearing procedures.

B. Physical distancing (e.g., including use of cohorts/podding):

The Livingston Public Schools will comply with NJDOH Guidelines and make adjustments to plans on an ongoing basis. Students will be distanced in classrooms and on school grounds in accordance with the recommendations from the NJ Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control as guidance is communicated to schools. Based on current policy, schools in the district will create an environment for social distancing within the classroom to the maximum extent practicable. Use of shared objects will be limited or supplies will be cleaned between uses.

C. Handwashing and respiratory etiquette:

LPS will comply with NJDOH Guidelines and make adjustments to plans accordingly. As we have done during this school year, LPS will continue to ensure that there are multiple hand washing and hand sanitizing stations throughout the schools. Particular focus will be on the entrances and exits, in classrooms and near lunchrooms and toilets. Students will continue to be reminded to wash their hands throughout the school day, particularly before and after eating. Students will be organized and taken to wash their hands during designated times. Schools will continue to monitor students who may be symptomatic for COVID-19 and will immediately separate any student who is exhibiting symptoms. Schools will encourage students to cover their mouth and nose when they need to cough or sneeze. Due to increased droplet spread in certain classes, spacing for students in classes such as PE and music will be optimized and additional precautions to adhere to respiratory etiquette will be taken.

D. Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities, including improving ventilation:

All spaces will be cleaned daily following a 3-step process: 1. Clean dirt from all surfaces with attention to high touch areas like desktops, doorknobs, and chairs. 2. Thoroughly disinfect spaces using our hospital-grade disinfectant, recommended by the CDC to kill viruses. 3. Custodians will complete cleaning checklists for each classroom and restroom, which will be posted in the corresponding spaces. While school is in session, custodians will carry a spray bottle of hospital grade disinfectant and a clean dry cloth. We will continue working with our certified HVAC specialists to assess air filtration and circulation. We have already purchased and installed enhanced filters in our ventilation systems adhering to guidelines. HVAC systems are cleaned regularly, and filters will be changed in line with the experts' recommendations. Windows are opened whenever possible to increase ventilation.

E. Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the State, local, territorial, or Tribal health departments: Contact tracing is the process used to identify those who come into contact with people who have tested positive for many contagious diseases including COVID-19. Upon notification that a resident, student, or staff member has tested positive for COVID-19, the local health dept will call to determine close contacts to whom they may have spread the virus; close contact is defined as being within six feet for a period of at least 10 mins. Trained professionals then get in touch with those close contacts to recommend next steps, such as self-quarantining, and to provide critical education and support in risk mitigation strategies. Increasing the number and capacity of contact tracers has been a top priority of the Governor as these practices can help slow the spread of COVID-19. LPS will continue to work closely with the Livingston DOH to help keep the community safe as it pertains to contact tracing. LPS will follow guidelines of the NJDOH and update practices as those guidelines evolve.

F. Diagnostic and screening testing: The Livingston Public Schools will comply with NJDOH Guidelines and make adjustments to plans on an ongoing basis. Protocols will be in place for daily health screenings of students, teachers, administrators, and staff. This will be done through an Electronic Symptom Checking Survey - this initial screening will be used to complete the necessary questions as per the NJ Department of Education (NJDOE) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols for live school. This check-in system must be completed by parents for each student prior to departing for live school. Detailed information regarding this electronic symptom check survey and its use will be provided prior to the opening of school. This screening process will continue as long as it is recommended by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH). The procedures surrounding the screening will be modified based on advice from the NJDOH and the local department of health.

G. Efforts to provide vaccinations to educators, other staff, and students, if eligible:

The Livingston Public Schools will comply with NJDOH Guidelines and make adjustments to plans on an ongoing basis. The district will continue work proactively with the local department of health, county officials, and our district physician to encourage eligible members of our staff to be vaccinated, and will assist staff members in accessing vaccine sites and appointments. The district will also continue to provide the necessary opportunities during the school day, if needed, for our staff to take the time to leave work in order to be vaccinated.

H. Appropriate accommodations for children with disabilities with respect to the health and safety policies:

The Livingston Public Schools will comply with NJDOH Guidelines and make adjustments to plans on an ongoing basis. All current policies regarding the health and safety with children with disabilities can be found in District Policy 1648 and District Policy 1648.02. Students who receive special education and related services, as required by their Individualized Education Plans (IEP), will receive the services delineated in their IEP. Students who have Individualized Health Plans and Section 504 Plans will also receive all identified accommodations in those plans. For specific questions and further information, parents will continue to be encouraged to contact their child's case manager and/or the District Directors of Special Education.

2. Ensuring Continuity of Services

A. Describe how the LEA will ensure continuity of services, including but not limited to services to address students' academic needs and students' and staff's social, emotional, mental health, and other needs, which may include student health and food services. (1000 character limit)

School counselors, members of the CST, school nurses and/or SACs are available to all students during the school day. Further details about accessing additional academic, health, nutritional resources and school counseling services will be shared prior to the opening of school. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) standards are addressed by each teacher through the written curriculum across every content area and through our rich school counseling and Student Assistance Program. Staff will be actively engaging in professional development, consultation, and collaboration to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students daily. Intervention, programs, and consultations will continue to occur regularly. We understand the need for social and emotional learning and support for our students particularly during this challenging time. Counselors and teachers will continue to work together to create opportunities to support students as they transition to a more "normal" school schedule.

Update:

School counselors, members of the CST, school nurses and/or SACs are available to all students during the school day. Information regarding academic, health, nutritional resources and school counseling services is shared with all families via the district website and targeted emails. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) standards are addressed by each teacher through the written curriculum across every content area and through our rich school counseling and Student Assistance Program. Staff have engaged in professional development this year to ensure they are meeting the needs of our students daily. Intervention, programs, and consultations occur regularly.

3. Public Comment

A. Describe how the LEA sought public comment on its plan, and how it took those public comments into account in the development of its plan. Note, the ARP requires that LEAs seek public comment for each 60-day revision to the plan. (1000 character limit)

This document will be publicly shared, along with the Board of Education agenda and related back-up materials for the Livingston Board of Education public meeting on June 14, 2021, in advance of that public meeting. The Board of Education meeting will be in compliance with the sunshine law, including all meeting notification requirements. In addition to the plan being shared publicly in advance of the meeting, it will also be shared verbally with Board Members and the public as part of the Superintendent's Report during the June 14, 2021 public meeting. There are two opportunities in the meeting for public comment. The plan will also be shared and discussed with the Executive Committee of Livingston Education Association (LEA) in advance of the June 14, 2021 meeting of the Board of Education.

Update: The Livingston Board of Education meets twice a month during the school year. The Superintendent of Schools gives an update on the status of schools at every meeting; including but not limited to the pandemic protocols implemented, staffing and student attendance and NJDOE guidance and recommendations.

B. Describe how the LEA ensured that the plan is in an understandable and uniform format; is to the extent practicable written in a language that parents can understand or, if not practicable to provide written translations to a parent with limited English proficiency, will be orally translated for such a parent; and upon request by a parent who is an individual with a disability as defined by the ADA, will be provided in an alternative format accessible to that parent. (1000 character limit)

This document will be published on an easily accessible page on the district website, and will be posted digitally using other media. The Livingston Public School district is committed to making our content accessible to all members of the public, including those with disabilities. Along with our web hosting company Blackboard, our website is designed and developed in accordance with the internationally recognized Web Content Accessibility (WCAG) Guidelines 2.0 Level AA as well as the Section 508 standards in the United States.

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Briefly describe any guidance, professional learning, and technical assistance opportunities the LEA will make available to its schools.

Livingston Public Schools has a repository of Professional Development resources available for all staff to choose from; additionally, weekly and monthly Professional Development meetings are compulsory. Parent programs are held monthly on a myriad of topics from technology assistance to physical and mental well being to academic strategies.